

**PARAEDUCATOR TO TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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**LONG TITLE****General Description:**

This bill creates a program to award scholarships to paraeducators for education and training to become a licensed teacher.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship Program which provides scholarships of up to \$10,000 to paraeducators employed by school districts and charter schools who are pursuing an associate's degree or bachelor's degree to become a licensed teacher;
- ▶ provides that scholarship monies may only be used for tuition costs for:
  - an associate's degree program that fulfills credit requirements for the first two years of a bachelor's degree program leading to teacher licensure; or
  - the first two years of a bachelor's degree program leading to teacher licensure;and
- ▶ directs the State Board of Education to:
  - establish a committee to select scholarship recipients; and
  - make rules to administer the Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship Program.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates:

- ▶ as an ongoing appropriation, \$1,000,000 from the Uniform School Fund for fiscal year 2008-09.

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2008.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**53A-6-801**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53A-6-801** is enacted to read:

**Part 8. Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship Program**

**53A-6-801. Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship Program.**

(1) The Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship Program is created to award scholarships to paraeducators for education and training to become licensed teachers.

(2) The State Board of Education shall use money appropriated for the Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship Program to award scholarships of up to \$10,000 to paraeducators employed by school districts and charter schools who are pursuing an associate's degree or bachelor's degree program to become a licensed teacher.

(3) A paraeducator is eligible to receive a scholarship if:

(a) the paraeducator is employed by a school district or charter school;

(b) is admitted to, or has made an application to, an associate's degree program or bachelor's degree program that will prepare the paraeducator for teacher licensure; and

(c) the principal at the school where the paraeducator is employed has nominated the paraeducator for a scholarship.

(4) (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a committee to select scholarship recipients from nominations submitted by school principals.

(b) The committee shall include representatives of the State Board of Education, State Board of Regents, and the general public.

(c) (i) (A) A committee member who is not a government employee may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may receive per diem and expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official duties at the rates established by the Division of Finance under Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.

(B) A member may decline to receive per diem and expenses for the member's service.

(ii) (A) A committee member who is a government employee member who does not receive salary, per diem, or expenses from the agency the member represents for the member's service may receive per diem and expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official duties at the rates established by the Division of Finance under Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.

(B) A government employee member may decline to receive per diem and expenses for

64 the member's service.

65 (d) The committee shall select scholarship recipients on a competitive basis in  
66 accordance with criteria established by the State Board of Education in rule.

67 (5) The maximum scholarship amount is \$10,000.

68 (6) Scholarship monies may only be used to pay for tuition costs:

69 (a) of:

70 (i) an associate's degree program that fulfills credit requirements for the first two years  
71 of a bachelor's degree program leading to teacher licensure; or

72 (ii) the first two years of a bachelor's degree program leading to teacher licensure; and

73 (b) at a higher education institution:

74 (i) located in Utah; and

75 (ii) accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

76 (7) A scholarship recipient must be continuously employed by a school district or  
77 charter school while pursuing a degree using scholarship monies.

78 (8) The State Board of Education shall make rules in accordance with this section and  
79 Title 63, Chapter 46a, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to administer the Paraeducator to  
80 Teacher Scholarship Program, including rules establishing:

81 (a) scholarship application procedures;

82 (b) the number of, and qualifications for, committee members who select scholarship  
83 recipients;

84 (c) criteria used in selecting scholarship recipients; and

85 (d) procedures for distributing scholarship monies.

86 **Section 2. Appropriation.**

87 As an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, there is appropriated  
88 for fiscal year 2008-09, \$1,000,000 from the Uniform School Fund to the State Board of  
89 Education for the Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship Program.

90 **Section 3. Effective date.**

91 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2008.

